

## Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 INR-07 MC-02

PRS-01 /045 W

----- 103238

R 070727Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4646

S E C R E T KUWAIT 0623

STADIS////////////////////////////////

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARIES ATHERTON (NEA) AND VEST (PM)  
FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, KU

SUBJ: US POLICY VIS-A-VIS KUWAIT'S ARMS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

REF: KUWAIT 0622

1. IN THE TELEGRAM UNDER REFERENCE THE EMBASSY TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND DEFENSE SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING FUTURE US POLICY VIS-A-VIS KUWAIT'S ARMS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. OUR ECOM-MENDATIONS ARE BASED IN LARGE MEASURE ON WHAT DOD AGENCIES ARE WILLING TO DO AND WHAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE THE POLITICAL RELATIES OF THE MOMENT, PARTICULARLY IN THE UNITED STATES. THEY ARE NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE MAXIMUM COOPERATIVE EFFORT WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS IN THE PAST AND STILL BELIEVES WOULD BEST SERVE US MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM INTERESTS.

2. OUR PROPOSED COURSE OF ACTION (REDUCED ASSISTANCE UNDER FMS) WILL NOT BE TAKEN GRACIOUSLY BY OUR KUWAITI FRIENDS. GOK OFFICIALS ALREADY SUSPECT WE ARE DELIBERATELY WITHHOLDING THE ASSISTANCE THEY WANT. IN OUR MESSAGE WE SUMMARIZE SOME POSSIBLE KUWAITI REACTIONS TO CONTINUED HALF-EFFORTS AND DELAYED RESPONSES IN MEETING THEIR PERCEIVED WEAPONS NEEDS.

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3. I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR FOCUSING PERSONALLY ON THE

RESPONSE PREPARED IN THE DEPARTMENT TO THE ABOVE MESSAGE. IN MY JUDGEMENT, WE MUST FACE SQUARELY THE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR ARMS SALES POLICY TOWARDS KUWAIT AND CONVEY CLEARLY TO THE GOK OUR INTENTIONS IF WE ARE TO AVOID ILL CONCEIVED KUWAITI ACTIONS HARMFUL TO OUR INTERESTS.

4. WHILE I SUSPECT WE CANNOT GET MORE FOR KUWAIT THAN IS RECOMMENDED IN OUR MESSAGE, I DO THINK AN EXPLANATION OF OUR POLICY IS NECESSARY AND SHOULD BE MADE BY A SENIOR USG OFFICIAL WHOSE VIEWS THE KUWAITIS RESPECT AND WHO CAN GIVE EVIDENCE OF HIGH-LEVEL USG POLICY CONSIDERATION OF KUWAITI NEEDS. I WOULD HOPE THAT EITHER ONE OR BOTH OF YOU MIGHT VISIT KUWAIT IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS WITH THE GOK OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE EFFORTS. PERHAPS SUCH A TRIP COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR FOLLOWING THE RUMORED VISIT BY THE SECRETARY TO THE AREA THIS SPRING. AN INVITATION FOR A SENIOR KUWAITI OFFICIAL TO VISIT THE US TO RECEIVE OUR RECOMMENDED EXPLANATION DOES NOT APPEAR DESIRABLE OR POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME.  
MAU

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ellisoob  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KUWAIT00623  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760047-0730  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 76 KUWAIT 622  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ellisoob  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUN 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2004 by ellisoob>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US POLICY VIS-A-VIS KUWAIT'S ARMS MODERNIZATION PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** MASS, PFOR, KU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006